

# Deadly Fourth Mile Killed Many Hopes

## Victory Often Snatched from Defeat in Last Stretch of Classic

By FRANK O'NEILL

When the final history of intercollegiate rowing is written several chapters will be dedicated to scenes in the last mile of the regatta at Poughkeepsie. The "deadly fourth mile" is only a memory now, but it is a memory that will linger.

More hopes than oarsmen have been killed in the drive from the bridge to the finish line, and the strain, in a sense, has been greater on the spectators in the observation train than on the men who swung the flashing sweeps.

Oarsmen of another, and, perhaps, a better, day will not soon forget how the great Columbia crew forced Cornell to establish a record for the course which still stands. The grueling race between Pennsylvania and Wisconsin in 1906, which the former won by a "berry crate," holds its place. Nor will the mighty finish of the Stanford eight in 1915 fade from the vision of those who saw the Palo Alto giants fight their battle.

Fame for McCarthy

Columbia men will cherish the memory of Charley McCarthy in the race of 1914, when he stroked the Blue and White to victory. They will not forget the regatta of 1911, when Downing hurled the Columbia shell a length in the lead, with a quarter of a mile to go, only to have well-deserved victory snatched from his grasp when Sage collapsed. These memories are only a few of the many that will be held sacred to the fourth mile of the regatta.

Sprints that resulted in victory for one crew or another have been started

## Collapse of Sage Fatal to Columbia When Cornell Race Was All but Won

What could stop Columbia now? Nothing, it seemed. The long cheer from the Columbia cars rang over the river. Columbia men had waited since 1895 for this chance to shout. Victory was theirs. Not yet. As Sage, the bowman, swung forward on his slide, his head jerked back. He tried convulsively to straighten up, but pitched forward against the back of the man before him. Where but a moment before had been the rhythm of machinery, the ultimate in rowing form, chaos reigned. The run of the boat was checked. The mad efforts of the great Downing to hurl the crippled crew over the line were unavailing. Cornell came on and won.

Fatal to Victory

Sage's difficulties were transitory, but they were fatal to the crew. He recovered shortly after the shell drifted over the line, and was able to row back to the clubhouse. His moment of weakness robbed one of the greatest strokes of one of the best crews in the history of Columbia of a victory that was more than deserved.

"Won by a berry crate" is the way oarsmen talk of the regatta of 1906, when Pennsylvania defeated Wisconsin by two seconds in time, and the Quakers won by a margin of a few inches. A fiercer race never had been rowed at Poughkeepsie, and none greater has thrilled the crowd since. Smashing down the course, row to row, with the Quakers in the lead, the Cornell crew, the Quakers fought their battle. The other crews, Columbia, Cornell and Georgetown offered no great resistance. Passing under the bridge, a man in the Penn crew came to a halt, he lifted his head and his arms and dropped him on the runners. By some freak of fortune, however, he recovered his seat and his oar simultaneously, and the drive of the boat was not badly checked. J. P. Gardiner, the stroke, at once started the Penn crew on a dash for the line, and the Penn crew, starting from the starting gun—and in a thrice the Red and Blue crew was lapped on the shell of the Badgers. Another shell placed the bow almost even, with about half a mile to go.

Screaming coxswains urged the tiring oarsmen into a final effort. All energy was hurled into the stroke. The boats moved as one. There is a divinity that shapes our ends, and the same divinity probably guides nomadic berry crates. It guided one such crate directly in the path of the Wisconsin boat, and the coxswain had to alter his course to avoid a collision which might have wrecked the shell. The detour was not wide, but it was enough. A straight line is the shortest distance between two points. Penn rowed the straight line and won the race.

Praise for Stanford

Cornell's great crew of 1915 experienced the stern joy that warriors feel in fœmen worthy of their steel in the race with Leland Stanford's stalwart oarsmen. The Cornell cheer was rung to the heavens by the Ithaca undergraduates after the eight dashed over the line, but the name of Stanford lingered on the lips of all other spectators on the long observation train. The native sons were termed "the Western experiment" before the race. Later they were crowned heroes of the struggle, even if they did not win.

When the race started the Westerners went away at a mad pace. They lashed the stroke up around the forty-to-the-minute mark, and for half a mile or so held it there. They stayed right along with Cornell, and the spectators on the long observation train. The native sons were termed "the Western experiment" before the race. Later they were crowned heroes of the struggle, even if they did not win.

## Cornell Crew in Historic Struggle With Varsity Heroes From Stanford

Minor faults, such as an occasional splash on the recovery, a slam through on the slides, meant little to the Californians, but it meant much to the spectators. The Palo Alto men had to crack. That was all there was to it. When somewhat more than two miles had been rowed, the Cornell crew dropped back. The beat dropped, and the critics were in high place. Stanford HAD cracked. Cornell took the lead, with Syracuse second.

Like John Paul Jones, however, the Palo Alto crew, however, the Cornell crew had only begun to fight. The beat had been dropped—it was only to take a breather. As the bow of the shell penetrated the shadows of the massive bridge, those sun-browned shoulders began to heave with a new-found power. At each heave the boat fairly rose out of the water and beat through space. The Orange crew was eclipsed in a blaze of California glory as Stanford drove for the finish line, only three-quarters of a mile away.

Inch by Inch

Half a mile from home the Stanford crew crept up on Cornell. It was inch by inch until those inches grew into feet and those feet in turn lengthened into yards. Man after man in the Ithaca shell was cut down, one man a stroke, until only a couple of feet separated the two crews. As they flashed golden brown in the evening glow. The Western experiment had become a Western peril. Eastern rowing prestige hung in the balance. Would Cornell be content to take the sting out of this wonderful rush of the supermen from the Land of the Setting Sun?

The last quarter of a mile in that epic struggle is history. How the Cornell crew rallied its fading reserve, and with never a break in the matchless rhythm of the Courtney stroke pressed on to win by a narrow margin is known. But Stanford, though beaten, was hailed by the crowd, which honored the fight for the fight's sake even more than the victory.

Cornell, "the Mistress of the Hudson," is generally the leading character in the rowing drama. It is the water of that picturesque stream. Not without cause, for the Red and White has been flung to the breeze from the middle span of the bridge more often than any other standard. One of the greatest struggles for supremacy ever waged was in 1907, and then Courtney's blades barely nosed out Columbia, which rowed its first race under the tutelage of Jim Rice.

A southwest wind and a leaden sky, fitful showers and a mean kick on the waters augured ill for the regatta. Some delay was occasioned by the electric light, and finally, as the sun sank behind the mighty Palisades, the starting gun barked, and the crews started on their drive down the stream. Columbia and Cornell were the first to start, and Cornell was the first to be seen.

# "Big Four" of American Golf Inclined Toward Lank, or Lean, Type



## PLAN ELABORATE WINTER SPORTS FOR DARTMOUTH

### Sixty Colleges Invited to Join in Two Days' Carnival at Hanover

Hanover, N. H., Feb. 3.—Dartmouth's winter carnival, according to the programme mapped out by the Dartmouth Outing Club, will surpass any event of the kind ever held at New Hanover. Invitations have been sent to sixty colleges to take part in the outdoor events, from February 8 to 10. One of the features of this annual carnival is a three-day trip over the White Mountains. Hundreds of alumni of the college annually return to the college town for that fascinating jaunt on snowshoes. The Outing Club has had cabins built at several places in the mountains, and here the trampers gather at nights and by the log fire. No other college in the United States is so well situated for winter sports as Dartmouth. A big programme has been arranged for this year's carnival.

The first day's activities will begin at 1:30, with a hockey game between Dartmouth and Bishop's College, of Canada. From the rink the crowd will proceed to the golf links, where the first events of the intercollegiate ski and snowshoe relay races will take place. A number of innovations appear this year in the meet, chief among which is a ski obstacle race. A ski jump between alumni and undergraduates, a ski jump for children under fourteen, and an interclass ski relay race are also new features. A ski 220-yard dash, a snowshoe race for the same distance, a ski cross-country race, the children's ski jump, a snowshoe obstacle race and exhibition ski jumping, including turning somersaults in midair and jumping tandem, comprise the programme.

Carnival Ball

The carnival ball, the chief social event of the celebration, will take place in the evening.

The final day of the carnival will start at 1:30 on February 10, when the concluding numbers of the ski and snowshoe relay races will take place. The relay races will be the ski obstacle race, skiing for proficiency and good form, the snowshoe cross-country run and the intercollegiate ski jump between alumni and the undergraduates. In the evening the basketball teams of Columbia and Dartmouth will meet in a league game, and a concert by the glee and mandolin clubs will bring the carnival to a close.

Colgate, like Dartmouth, is taking up winter sports on a more extensive basis than formerly, and plans are being made for a carnival to hold in February. This college is located at Hamilton, N. Y., where there is snow on the ground during the entire winter. At Saranac Lake every February a winter carnival is held, and in connection with this college is a series of championships are conducted on the lake.

Probably the largest winter carnival in the country is held annually at St. Paul, Minn. This is the biggest thing in the North, and St. Paul is crowded with thousands of visitors on carnival days and nights. A pageant in which hundreds participate is the big feature, together with ice skating contests and skiing competitions. In this part of the country the weather is too erratic to permit any such celebrations. Oldtimers tell us of the days years ago when there was always snow or zero weather from late in November until spring, when there were sleigh races on the Karlin River, but those days seem to have passed. We get zero weather occasionally, but it is not lasting, and does not permit the planning of winter carnivals such as are held at New Hanover, St. Paul and various parts of New York State where winter is winter all winter long.

## Tales of a Wayside Tee

By GRANTLAND RICE

Two or three heavy-set golfers, inclined toward stockiness or rotundity, were discussing a certain other golfer a few days ago.

"Well," one of them said, "why shouldn't he be good? He has a big advantage over us in build. These tall, rangy fellows have a decided margin over the others."

This statement might be worth looking into. We know that the tall, long-reaching prizefighter or first baseman has an advantage. We know in tennis that the height and reach have certain qualities not to be scorned.

But is golf inclined to favor any sort of build?

Winning Moulds

Braid, Vardon and Taylor are all big men. But Braid is over six feet, where Taylor is not nearly so tall, being under six feet, weighing around 175 pounds. Ray is over six feet, weighing well over 200 pounds.

Then we might come to leading golfers who have won fame in this country. Chick Evans is just average build, neither thin nor fat, weighing around 160 pounds.

Jerry Travers is built along slender lines, with small wrists and small, delicate hands. He weighs not over 140 pounds, and yet, despite his lack of bulk, his small wrists and his small hands, gets tremendous distance with the driving iron, the one club that is supposed to call for power.

Oswald Kirkby and Bob Gardner are both of the type referred to above. Both are built along the tall and rangy lines, while Francis Ouimet is cast something in the same mould.

But Jack McDermott was not a big man nor a tall man, and Bobby Jones, the Boy Wonder, is heavy-set and chunky, of exactly opposite type. Then there is Norman Maxwell, one of the best of the younger crowd. Maxwell weighs less than 120 pounds, being very slight. Yet he has no trouble at all in getting fine distance from the tee, proving again that strength is only a small part of golf.

Fat Men and Lean

So far as we know, no fat man ever won a golf championship—in this country, at least. But a man can be heavy set and chunky without being fat. Alex Smith is stockily set up, far removed from the tall and rangy type, but Alex has won his share of open

## Crisis in American Tennis Near Over Amateur Question

By FRED HAWTHORNE

These are days of great activity in lawn tennis circles, and the air is charged with a high, nervous tension, with the annual meeting of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association in this city only a few days away. It is the universal opinion among players and followers of the game that the meeting at the Waldorf on Friday afternoon and evening will mark a crisis in American lawn tennis.

According to the leaders in the two camps, made up of those favoring a drastic amateur rule and those believing in the utmost leniency in this regard, the present situation cannot continue. Both sides are agreed upon this—that the constant bickering and state of unrest because of the arguments of the delegates at the meeting is a detriment to the welfare of the game, and that decisive action one way or the other at the meeting will be better than the present state of affairs.

Settled for Good

A prominent player in discussing the matter with me yesterday said: "I earnestly hope that if the proposed amendments to the present amateur rule are going to be passed by the delegates at this meeting it will be by an overwhelming majority, and conversely, if they are going to be defeated, that it will be by a like margin, so that the question may be settled once and for all and never come up again."

This continual discussion and these recriminations cast about between the two camps, which has been going on for years and his amateurism is of the soundest. Now, although his days of tournament competition are practically over, he takes an even keener interest in the welfare of the game than when he was one of America's greatest players, but he agrees neither with the stand of the executive committee of the national association, which desires to base men employed in sporting goods on the amateur rule, nor with the Pacific Coast States Association and other sections, which believe that only the receiving of money directly by a player through his association with the game should bar him.

Will Stick to Jobs

"Do those who are trying to put through these amendments think for one moment that any but an infinitesimal number of the 50,000-odd men engaged in the sporting goods business are going to retire from means of making a livelihood," demanded this player, "if the national association does put through its rule?"

"It is too ridiculous to even consider such thing. These men are making their living, supporting their families, in a perfectly legitimate manner. It is a matter of play or business with them, and if they are called upon to decide they will not hesitate for a moment to stick to their jobs."

"On the other hand, I do not agree with the Pacific States idea of what an amateur should be allowed to do. The liberties allowed a player under such conditions would mean the ruin of the game, but there is a middle course to be steered by both sides, and I would like to see it adopted."

"If a player is legitimately engaged in the manufacture, sale or handling of sporting goods he should not be molested. I mean by that, supposing a man had entered the business as a salesman, say when a mere boy, and had been working for two or three years before he began to play tennis and later developed into a great player, a champion. Would it be fair to declare him a professional under such conditions would mean the ruin of the game, but there is a middle course to be steered by both sides, and I would like to see it adopted."

Automatically Made Pro

"Or take another case. Supposing a player's father had been engaged in the manufacture of sporting goods for many years, even before the son was born, and had built up a great business. Would it not be perfectly natural and perfectly legitimate for that son to enter his father's business? But even if he never played a set of tennis in his life, the amendments proposed

## PITTSBURGH FIVE WILL PLAY EASTERN TEAMS

Pittsburgh, Feb. 3.—Flushed with victories registered over the fastest college teams in Western Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh's basketball team is preparing for its annual invasion of the East, which is scheduled to begin Wednesday next week.

Rutgers will be met at New Brunswick Wednesday night, and then the team will come back to Pennsylvania for two games, one on Thursday night with Lafayette and the other with Swarthmore the following night. The final game of the trip will take place at West Point, La., in the season a trip will be taken north into New York State, where the University of Buffalo and Syracuse will be met.

## Girl Water Sprite Sets a World Mark in Dash

Miss Elizabeth Becker, the sensational fourteen-year-old water sprite of the Philadelphia Turngemeinde, won a 40-yard dash in the home pool last week in the wonderful time of 21 seconds, the fastest performance ever made by one of her sex at the distance, and actually a world's record for women, though unacceptable as such, because the race was not open to outsiders.

The feat is fully vouched for, however, and it begins to look as if this amazing little maid will soon be wearing national championship laurels.

In the last two months she has covered the century in 1 minute 10 seconds, or dangerously close to standard figures, and also turned the furlong in 3 minutes 13 seconds, in the same pool in which Miss Gailigan won the national A. A. title last spring in 3 minutes 15-2 seconds.

On February 17 Miss Becker is scheduled to meet her team mate, Miss Olga Dornier, the American recordist, in the Middle Atlantic 50-yard swimming championship, unless the latter shows greater speed than she has, in her young rival is expected to win. It will be interesting to watch results.

Russell Dean, of Boston and Yale University, has been challenged to a 100-yard back stroke match by Hollis Ferguson, of the Detroit Young Men's Christian Association, and if he accepted, the match, as expected, the contest will take place in the pool of the New York Athletic Club. It should be a rattling good race, for Dean has to his credit the 100-yard world's championship in the style of a nation, and is equally fast at the longer distance, while Ferguson has been travelling both courses around standard figures in practice.

## MAX CAREY DECLARES HE IS WITH FUTZ

St. Louis, Feb. 3.—Max Carey, the National League's leading base runner and the Pirates' star outfielder, is heart and soul with the Futzers. He is wintering here at his father's home, and perfectly willing to answer why the Fraternity was organized.

"You must remember that the conditions brought about by the magnates provoked some action on our part several seasons back," he says. "We were not getting a 50-50 split with the owners, so we started the Fraternity. Dave Fultz worked hard for us and obtained many sane concessions. He bettered our condition in many ways, but he never was able to gain official recognition. They treated his demands in the abstract and were particularly generous during the Federal League war."

# PENNANTS COME HARDER EVERY YEAR—M'GRAW

## Giants' Leader Believes Orioles Equal of Modern Champions, Save in Box

John McGraw, of the Giants, has piloted five clubs into Pennantville, and he was a master player on that renowned old team, the Baltimore Orioles. What he has to say on pennant winning in general is the opinion of a high class expert. In a fanning bee the other night he said:

"It is getting to be about the most difficult job in the world to win a pennant. Not that it is ever easy, but it gets harder all the time. The competition is keener and the manager is under a heavier strain."

"In the old days a club had only one or two extra players, and an outfielder might be on first base and a pitcher in the outfield when not otherwise occupied. But nowadays, with the abundance of substitutes, it is a close problem to win games. Pitchers aren't knocked out of the box any more. Let a man start to show signs of distress and he is promptly yanked for another. It takes pretty nearly perfect pitching to get by in the major leagues nowadays."

## Overcame Thirteen Hoodoo

"Why, I remember a game, when I was playing on the Baltimore Orioles, when the opposing club scored thirteen runs off our pitcher in the first inning. We wanted to take him out, but he said no, that he would settle down all right, and we left him in. And he did settle down. They didn't score any more runs, and we finally won the game by a score of 14 to 13. But what chance would a pitcher have nowadays to 'settle down' if they scored thirteen runs in the first inning?"

"It is simply an account of the keenness of competition and the abundance of playing material compared with the standards of old days that pennant winning has become such a task as at present. Individually, I don't think the players of the present are any less than they were when I was on the Orioles. If there is any difference I would prefer the oldtimers. I don't think there is any pitcher at present who is any better than Clarkson or Cy Young or Rusin, and you would have to argue to convince me there are any as good. But, of course, in those days there was but one big league."

"I have often speculated as to the outcome of an encounter between the old Orioles and a strong modern club. No doubt I am prejudiced in favor of that famous old team, but my prejudice is founded on fact. They were a great bunch of players, and I am sure they were better than the modern sluggers. Why, I remember one year our weakest hitter led the league in three-base hits. What they couldn't do in one way they made up for in another."

## Orioles Pitching Weak

"In fact, if the old Orioles had had pitchers as good as the Athletics and had been able to meet them I don't think there would have been any contest. The Orioles would have had to throw them in runs. As things were, wouldn't make any prediction. Our pitchers were always ineffective. Some way or other, though, we had a wonderful club. Our pitchers didn't pan out. I remember we got Pitcher Gleason after every other club thought he was through, and he won something like twenty-three out of twenty-five games. But I can't remember all the contests that we had to score 12 or 14 runs to pull him through."

"No, with the pitchers that we had, I don't think that even the old Orioles could have beaten the Athletics with Plank and Bender and Bush in form. We would have given them a royal battle and we would have scored more runs against them than any other club ever scored, but our weak pitching would have been a vulnerable point for their attack."

## Cricket Player Dies

Word was received in metropolitan cricket circles yesterday of the death of C. Percy Hurditch from typhoid fever at Madras, East Indies, on January 30. Hurditch, although absent from the country, was expected to be one of the leading figures on the creases of New York and Philadelphia.

## TEN BALL GAMES ON MONTCLAIR SCHEDULE

Montclair, N. J., Feb. 3.—Over thirty candidates, seven of which are from last year's team, will start indoor baseball practice at Montclair Academy next week. The 1917 schedule comprises ten games, viz.: April 20, Caldwell High School, at Montclair; April 27, Caldwell High School, at Montclair; May 4, Montclair Academy, at Montclair; May 11, Montclair Academy, at Montclair; May 18, Montclair Academy, at Montclair; May 25, Montclair Academy, at Montclair; June 1, Montclair Academy, at Montclair; June 8, Montclair Academy, at Montclair; June 15, Montclair Academy, at Montclair; June 22, Montclair Academy, at Montclair.

## ARMY FOUR TOO MUCH FOR MEADOW LARKS

West Point, N. Y., Feb. 3.—The Army's polo team won an indoor match in the riding hall to-day from Durland's Meadow Larks by a score of 4 to 0. The cadets outdressed their opponents by a goodly margin. The Durland's team, which was mounted on army ponies, received a handicap of three goals at the start, but a man can be a good player with a handicap. McGowan is another man who, though his hitting was clean and timely, Cadets Kittrell and Heavey did the best work in the game.

## PITCHING ONLY WORRY OF AMHERST COACH

Amherst, Feb. 3.—Winter baseball practice at Amherst will begin February 13, when Coach Davis will return to take charge of work in the cage. With only two men lost by graduation, but one task of difficulty will confront Coach Davis—that of developing a pitching staff.

Captain Goodridge, of the 1916 team, was the only pitcher of first class ability the team had last spring. With his graduation only a few prospects for a twirler are in sight. Knauth, a left-handed infielder, has speed, as shown by his work in the box in intersession games, and may develop into a good man. McGowan is another man who, though his hitting was clean and timely, Cadets Kittrell and Heavey did the best work in the game.

## MAX CAREY DECLARES HE IS WITH FUTZ

St. Louis, Feb. 3.—Max Carey, the National League's leading base runner and the Pirates' star outfielder, is heart and soul with the Futzers. He is wintering here at his father's home, and perfectly willing to answer why the Fraternity was organized.

"You must remember that the conditions brought about by the magnates provoked some action on our part several seasons back," he says. "We were not getting a 50-50 split with the owners, so we started the Fraternity. Dave Fultz worked hard for us and obtained many sane concessions. He bettered our condition in many ways, but he never was able to gain official recognition. They treated his demands in the abstract and were particularly generous during the Federal League war."

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